

**February 27, 2015**

**To: State of Connecticut  
State Legislature  
Appropriations Committee**

**From: Paul S. Timpanelli  
President & CEO  
Bridgeport Regional Business Council**

**RE: 2/27 Public Hearing re Hospital Tax and Hospital Revenues**

As the President & CEO of the Bridgeport region's largest business membership association, I write to you today to ask that you rethink the proposal before you within the submitted state budget that relates to the Department of Social Services which includes a significant expansion of the so-called hospital tax as well as cuts to hospital related revenue sources.

If enacted, these burdensome measures would have a very dramatic impact on the financial stability of hospitals throughout the state, thereby, ultimately impacting their ability to continue to provide quality health care services to our state's residents. Within our region, **Bridgeport Hospital** and **St. Vincent's Medical Center** are outstanding health care providers, thereby enabling their presence to serve as a critical piece of our economic development success. In addition, these two award-winning facilities currently employ over 5,000 people in high-paying quality jobs, some of which would, of necessity, disappear from our economy if these added taxes and revenue reductions, in combination, were enacted.

This measure is a very high-risk attempt to gain needed state revenue from a misplaced source. It will, if enacted, dramatically reduce the ability of quality health care providers to succeed. Our state has made some measurable progress over the last four years or so on its economic turnaround. You should not, at this juncture, undertake such dramatic step that would endanger the economic stability of a central piece of our economy – our hospitals.

Clearly, we all realize and are sensitive to the difficult choices that need to be made relative to the state budget. As clear, the proposed road relative to further increasing the hospital tax and further decreasing hospital revenues is the wrong choice. Representing the 850 member businesses of the *Bridgeport Regional Business Council*, we urge your rejection of these proposals.

